



NEBRASKA'S LIVE STOCK INTERESTS

BY
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END OF INVESTIGATION

The windup of the investigation demanded by Miss Lydia J. McMahon, former superintendent of the State Industrial School for Girls at Geneva, was decidedly more favorable to her than was the first part. The examination of witnesses was given in the office of the board of commissioners of state institutions, the chairman of the board presiding.

The testimony of the first witnesses was mostly unfavorable to the ex-superintendent by revealing things that were done and permitted by those in charge of the institution under her management; but the last witnesses put on the stand largely dispelled the unfavorable impressions made during the first part of the examination.

Among the witnesses who were examined last week and whose testimony was favorable to Miss McMahon were ex-Governor Morehead, ex-Land Commissioner Cowles and Rev. E. M. Johnson, secretary of the state board of charities and corrections.

Ex-Governor Morehead

Mr. Morehead said that he was governor from 1913-17, and that at that time it was his duty to appoint heads of state institutions. He had carefully investigated Miss McMahon's records as superintendent, and had appointed her because of the excellent record she had made. He said the atmosphere was that of a home and always good; that the girls were treated with kindness, and that there was an affection towards the superintendent that was different from that of the usual penal institution. He had been at the institution a number of times while governor and had been impressed with the work done and thought that Miss McMahon was entitled to credit for what had been accomplished in the carrying out of her particular purpose of teaching the girls how to live and to lead them to better living.

As a state officer he had had such confidential relations with the girls of the school that they felt free to talk with them, and that not one of them had ever made any complaint, but that on the contrary the best of feeling existed and the girls were given a large measure of liberty. He said that when it came to the re-appointment no objections were raised on political grounds, but that they were of some other kind, which he did not mention.

Mr. Morehead said that he had never heard of the ball and chain or the handcuffs or of corporal punishment at the school.

Ex-Land Commissioner Cowles

Edward B. Cowles, land commissioner from 1909 to 1913, said his duties brought him a close knowledge of how the institute was conducted. When he first visited it the school was suffering from acts of providence as well as of the legislature, a cyclone having partly wrecked it. Mr. Cowles said the girls seemed to be in love with the superintendent and that she didn't have to do any bossing. He remembered one girl declaring on her entrance that she would, just as soon go to hell, but later when he talked with her she said it was all right.

Mr. Cowles said he had had confidential talks with the girls, that none ever made complaint of ill treatment.

"Would you say," asked Mr. Burke, "that the institution was well managed?"

"It was certainly efficiently managed. Miss McMahon wouldn't have held the position for fifteen years if it hadn't. The state officers who make appointments aren't rascals or fools."

"Have you ever seen handcuffs there?"

"Yes, they were part of the regalia of the institution, but were not kept on the parlor table."

Mr. Cowles said there was "mighty little" whipping done. In handling pervers and degenerates moral suasion was not sufficient; forcible restraint is necessary.

Rev. E. M. Johnson

Rev. E. M. Johnson, secretary of the state charities and corrections, was formerly a Protestant minister at Geneva, and said that no discrimination against ministers was made by the superintendent, and that each was given his turn at the school and also opportunity to hold Bible classes. This was introduced to combat stories at Geneva that because Miss McMahon is a Catholic, Protestant ministers were practically barred from holding services at the school.

A little wrangle marked the beginning of his testimony because the questions covered as far back as 1905. The object was to show that there is no basis for the criticism current in Geneva that Protestant ministers were not given an opportunity to hold services at the school. Mr. Johnson said that he was given an opportunity to take his turn at holding services and to teach a Bible class there regularly.

Mr. Johnson is now secretary of the state board of charities and corrections, and one of his duties is to visit state institutions. He had investigated and inquired fully into the Geneva school and read into the record a part of his November, 1917, report on the school to the governor. In this he said that it was in an excellent condition and that the girls were taught the value of a useful life; that the superintendent took a personal interest in the girls and taught them their true responsibilities in life; that the band and other forms of musical inspiration had produced wonderful results and had marked mellowing influences; that a great work was being done there that had its life results.

Mr. Johnson said that the relations between the girls and the superintendent were close and confidential, that the moral influences were of the highest character, that the closest harmony existed between the superintendent and inmates, that the girls were given the greatest freedom, and that the atmosphere was noticeably homelike.

JUST A SIMPLE STORY

The history of leasing school lands in Nebraska for the production of oil, gas, potash and other minerals, which is being prepared for publication by the deputy state land commissioner, is just a simple, straightforward story of the facts that interested persons will wish to secure, without color or camouflage.

The writer will not attempt to form opinions for the people in this matter. He believes that the average citizen is competent to form a correct opinion for himself if he has sufficient facts to base it upon; and, also, that the majority of people in a story of this kind would prefer a statement of information to that of somebody's opinion.

Contradictory statements on this subject have been published in different newspapers, some of these stories being of such variance that it would be impossible for all of them to be true. To put the most charitable construction upon the incorrect statements would be to say that those who made them were not properly informed. A plain history of the proposition will assist those who wish to make or publish statements relative to the subject to make them correct.

MEETING OF STATE BOARD

A meeting of the board of educational lands and funds was held Tuesday in the office of the governor, at which representatives of both sides of the question whether the old mineral leases should be validated, were permitted to present arguments. It seems to be the desire of members of the board to get action in this matter as quickly as practicable and yet to carefully look after the interests of the state in fairness to all parties. Without coming to a decision the board adjourned to Friday of this week, when further investigation will be held and action taken as soon as practicable.

SHOWERS BREAK DRY SPELL

The vicinity of Lincoln has been the driest part of the state this spring but the dry spell is being broken this week by showers, which began Tuesday evening. The ground has been in good shape but small grain and early gardens have been needing moisture badly. In this part of Nebraska gardening is quite an item. While farmers are putting forth every effort possible, people in town as well as country, will make an unprecedented effort to grow in abundance of foodstuffs in their war gardens—and thus help to swat the Kaiser while conserving their own interests.

Land Commissioner Shumway says

that millions of dollars are now being expended or have been expended during the last six or eight months in developing the oil and mineral resources of the state. Oil prospecting is now under way in Dawes, Sioux, Cherry, Scottsbluff, Banner, Pawnee and Webster counties. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are being expended in developing the potash resources of the state.

Beet raisers in western Nebraska are going to receive \$10 a ton for their beets this season. This is an advance of 100 per cent over the price paid when the beet sugar industry was in its infancy, and the increase spells vastly increased prosperity for western Nebraska, which has been prospering wonderfully during the last six or eight years.

Arnold Martin has already commenced work on Nebraska's exhibit at the national dry farming congress to be held at Kansas City next fall. His success in winning all the sweepstakes prizes for Nebraska at former exhibitions of the congress impelled the management to abolish the system of cash prizes, and cups and medals will be substituted. Martin has already one sweepstakes silver cup to his credit. It is three feet high and ornaments Governor Neville's desk in the executive office of the state house. Martin says he will bring back a companion cup from the next congress.

NEBRASKA NEWS BY PUBLICITY BUREAU

All School Children of the State Will Soon Be Taken on Motion Picture Excursion to State Institutions

"NEBRASKA AT WORK" (By WILL M. MAPIN, Publicity Director)

AN EXCURSION to everyone of Nebraska's public institutions is the treat the department of publicity has for the school children of Nebraska. Not a personal visit, to be sure, but a visit by proxy. The state institutions will be taken to the children in the shape of motion pictures.

The department of publicity is now engaged in making up something like 6,000 feet of motion picture reels in which will be shown every activity of the state. It will be "Nebraska at Work" in fact as well as in name.

"The initial efforts of the department of publicity are devoted to acquainting Nebraskans with their own state."

"The pictures will be shown in the various cities and towns of the state under the auspices of the local school boards and commercial clubs. The arrangements must all be made locally, and there will be no charge made by the department of publicity for furnishing the pictures, the projecting machine and the necessary expert help in showing the films. Only the actual local expense will have to be met, and that will be a comparatively small item."

"The audiences will be taken on a specially conducted tour of Nebraska beginning at Lincoln, where the legislature will be seen in action, the executive officers at work, and the various departments in full activity. Then the University of Nebraska will be visited, followed by a short trip to the college of agriculture. Then the long swing around the circle begins with a visit to the Orthopedic hospital, the Child savings institute, the state prison and the asylum for the insane. Then the party will be taken to see the industrial home for girls at Geneva, the asylum for the insane at Hastings, the boys' industrial school at Kearney and the normal school and tubercular hospital at the same place. Thence to Grand Island to see the soldiers' and sailors' home, over to see the other soldiers' and sailors' home and the women's home, thence to Omaha to see the institute for the deaf and dumb and the new medical college and hospital of the University of Nebraska. From Omaha a trip will be made to Nebraska City to see the school for the blind, thence over to Peru to see the parent normal school of the state. Then side trips will be made to the Wayne normal school, the asylum for the insane at Norfolk, the normal school at Chadron and the experimental stations at Scottsbluff and North Platte. The tour of the state institutions will close with scenes at the fish hatcheries at South Bend and Valentine."

"After the state institutions have been visited the party will be taken on a tour of the agricultural regions of the state, where they will see farming and stock raising in all their branches. Irrigated farming, dry farming, tractor farming, orcharding, dairying and beet culture will all be shown. Then brief visits will be made to some of the larger manufacturing plants, the stock yards and other industrial activities."

"It will be a wonderful educational feature and the department of publicity is confident that it will be fairly deluged with requests for dates. Owing to circumstances the dates will have to be made so as to permit of short 'jumps' and without missing any opportunities for exhibitions."

"Nebraska will have her quota of men under the second draft all ready to move on the day appointed," said Provost Marshal Captain Anderson last Saturday. "The county boards have been remarkably efficient in their work, and everything is in splendid shape. Nebraska is again going to win laurels because of her efficiency in handling the draft."

Nebraska is still showing her neighboring sister states how to do things worth while along all lines of war activity. Nebraska stands sixth among the states in the number of physicians and surgeons given to war service. No state touching Nebraska's borders is within gunshot of this record.

A great many of the films are already in hand, having been previously taken by the conservation and welfare commission under the personal direction of Dr. George E. Condra. Other films will be made under the direction of the bureau of publicity, and the whole will be joined so as to make one consecutive story of the state. There will be a vein of comedy running through the whole story that will prevent the whole from becoming tedious even to the smallest kindergartner.

"The preparation of this series of pictures entails an enormous amount of work, and it will be several weeks before the department of publicity is ready to make dates for their presentation. In order to show the real beauty of the state institutions some of the films will have to wait until the trees are in full leaf and the flower beds in full bloom."

"The department feels sure that as an educational feature, arousing the interest of Nebraskans in the development of their own state, this story of 'Nebraska at Work' is going to be the best thing ever undertaken in the state."

The Curtis Home bakery was found to be without the license required by the United States food administration. J. C. Curtis, proprietor was summoned before Judge Tash Wednesday afternoon. He claimed that he did not know a license was required. He was given until Saturday night to close out all perishable food and the bakery will then be closed until he has secured a license.



What Your Dollar Bought 10 Years Ago—and What it Buys Now

The cost of most of the necessities of life, including materials used in giving telephone service, has been going up for some time.

But today your dollar buys 400% more telephone service than ten years ago.

And today your dollar buys 40% less of all living commodities than ten years ago.

The price of the principal items used in telephone repairs and extensions has gone up about 75 per cent during the last two years.



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